

PATENT

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the restriction requirement mailed December 30, 2005. Claims 1-57 are subject to restriction and election requirements. The Office action requires restriction to one of four inventions: Group I, claims 10-25, Group II, claims 1-9, 26-37, and 55-57, Group III, claims 38-39, and Group IV, claims 40-54.

Election of Invention

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, the undersigned hereby elects Group II, pending claims 1-9, 26-37, and 55-57.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully maintain that claims 1-57 are directed to related inventions and may be searched and examined on the merits without serious burden. See MPEP § 803. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement.

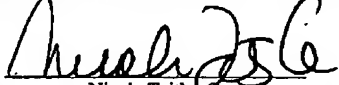
In addition, claims 10-25 are amended to depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and may be searched and examined on the merits without serious burden. See MPEP § 803.

Additional Remarks

Claim 1 is amended to provide antecedent basis for claims 10-25. Claims 2 and 4 are amended consistent with amendments to claim 1. Claim 36 is amended to correct a typographical error.

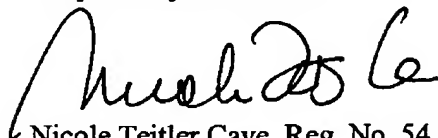
All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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